

*News From U.S. Senator*

*North Dakota*

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: <http://dorgan.senate.gov>

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Contact: Dana McCallum  
or Barry Piatt  
Phone: 202/224-2551

## **DORGAN ANNOUNCES \$925,000 GRANT FOR NORTH DAKOTA REAP ZONES**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan announced Thursday that the two North Dakota Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) zones will receive a special project grant of \$925,000 that will help create jobs by funding rural economic development activities. The grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is part of the REAP program which Dorgan helped establish to address the economic needs of rural communities.

"This funding reflects our ongoing commitment in the fight to stop out-migration from rural communities in North Dakota," said Dorgan, who is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "The REAP program works to increase job opportunities and stimulate economic development, which means more future economic choices for families in our state."

The grant will be administered by the REAP Investment Fund for several categories of economic development assistance, including developer support, information technology, housing, tourism and community development.

In 1995 Dorgan helped establish the REAP pilot program to spark economic development in areas where severe out-migration has strained local resources to the breaking point. REAP takes a grass-roots approach to economic rejuvenation, mobilizing citizens and local leaders of involved communities. Two areas in North Dakota are designated REAP zones: the Center of North America Coalition (CONAC) zone and the Southwest zone. The CONAC zone contains six counties and two Indian Reservations of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Sioux Nation. The Southwest zone contains eight counties and the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Dorgan requested the \$925,000 HUD grant as part of the fiscal year 2000 VA/HUD Appropriations Act.

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